

A few words concerning the Church of which Jesus Christ is the head.

"Be of good cheer for I have overcome the world."

Why? because Jesus demonstrated and exemplified our possibilities in God. His a mission of deeds, intensely practical. He brot the full measure of help and hope both physical and spiritual, to all who would avail themselves of His bebeficent Gospel. Still the power of God unto all necessary salvation from sin, sickness and distress.

The Churdh of Christ is the greatest institution in the world. Let us consider it briefly.

I. In fulfilment of prophecy.

Nearly 800 yrs before X Isaiah said,
The leading points.

1. It shall come to pass in the last days.

2. All nations shall flow into it.

3. The Law shall go forth from Zion and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Last days. All nations. Jerusalem.

Micah, 50 yrs after Isaiah, declared, "But in the last days it shall come to pass that the law shall go forth out of ~~Jeru~~ ^{Jeru} ~~salem~~ and the Word of the Lord out of Jerusalem."

No evidence of the establishment of the House of the Lord clear down thru the rest of the O&T.

Did Jesus personally establish the church? Not according to the requirements of the prophecy.

Jesus did not begin at Jerusalem. In Galilee.

Jesus did not embrace all nations in his ministry—he came unto his own and his own received him not.

Jesus commission to the 12 and to the 70 "Go not into the way of the Gentiles".

Before the death of Christ, no commission ever given to include all nations.

After resurrection when Jesus gathered his disciples to him He gave them this commission, "All power is given unto me in heaven and earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all

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things whatsoever I have commanded you, and, lo, I am with you alway even unto the end of the world."

Mark, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

Luke. "Thus it is written and thus it behooved Christ to suffer and to arise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

How about the last days?

In explanation of Pentacost Peter said, "Ye men of Judea and all that dwell in Jerusalem, be this known unto you, that which you see and hear is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel." And what did Joel prophecy? "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith the Lord God, I will pour out of my spirit on all flesh." Pentacost + 3000 were added into the church

Again, several months after Pentacost when Peter was explaining his going to the Gentiles he said, "As I began to speak the Holy Spirit fell on them even as on us at the beginning" What time was that? Pentacost during the last days of the beginning of the Church of Christ

4 II. Characteristics of the Church of Christ.

1. It was a people's church.

No steam roller crushing out individuality

No Ferris wheel elevating a few above the rest.

The disciple to Cornelius who had kneeled at his feet, "Stand upon thy feet for I am only a man" Whould he be a pope?

2. It was an obedient church. They ~~w~~eked in Chrst, were embued with His spirit, followed his example and died in Him.

3. It was a joyful church.

They rejoiced with a joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Jewish legend of the grain dropt in Nile during famine. God has dropt in the river of life wheat from the heavenly fields that we might seek the things that are above.

4. It was a healing church.

Early Xns healed. Tradition of the healing of Constantine
Martin Luther healed. John Wesley also.

It is God's universal law that the sick shall be healed just as it is the universal law of God that the repentant shall be forgiven. Man receives light, understanding

5. and freedom according to his faith knowledge and obedience.
As a man soweth so shall he also reap.

5. It was a united church.

No denominations. All were Christians and all belonged to the church of Christ.

The only thing vital to any of our churches is that Jesus Christ is the savior of the world and that the world needs Him above all other needs.

III. Why should we avail ourselves of the blessings of the Church of Christ?

1. Because we need to be made complete in Jesus Christ.

We all fall short of the mark. We all lack.

Early colonists standing on the shores watching for the sails of ships from mother country. They would come laden with all the colonists needed.

We are made complete in Christ.

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2. Because we need happiness and joy.

A great king once wrote a song of joy. He had great wealth but he did not write, "Happy is the man who has riches."

He was a great general, but he did not write, "Happy is the man who can command large armies and lead them to victories."

This great king wrote, "Happy is the man whose transgressions are forgiven."

3. Because we need to enter into true brotherhood. Christ teaches us to live for others. Golden Rule based on "others".

4. Because we need Eternal Life.

The Church of Christ the only institution in the world having to do with the world to come.

An artist spent many months moulding a group of figures which he intended to place on exhibition for a prize. Alas, when the time came to place it in the exhibition his work was found too large to take out the room without tearing down the building. Thus we build on earth and when it

comes time to exhibit our life work before the judgment of God we find that we cannot take it with us thru the portal of death.